



The Guardian

VOLUME 39, Issue 2

February 2008

Licata Ordinance Ruled Unlawful

By The Guardian Staff

In May 2006 the Seattle City Council passed an ordinance, spearheaded by Nick Licata that allowed the OPA Review Board access to unredacted files from the OPA investigations. The council also changed certain confidentiality requirements for the OPA-RB members in an attempt to hold the members harmless in the event that unredacted file information was improperly revealed to the public or the media. SPOG filed an Unfair Labor Practice with the state and argued that the ordinance violated state law. A hearing was heard before the PERC examiner in April 2007. On January 23, 2008 the Washington State Public Employees Relations Commission released its ruling in favor of the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild. The commission stated that the city “unlawfully violated the obligation to bargain in good faith when it unilaterally adopted a change in the confidentiality and redacted files rule utilized by OPARB and OPA.” The commission voided the Licata ordinance and further ordered the city to purge all findings of the OPARB based on unredacted files and to return all unredacted files back to the OPA. SPOG President Rich O’Neill said that he was elated by the decision and that this is a major victory for SPOG. “Hopefully, this sends a clear message to the city council that the way to seek changes in the police contract is at the bargaining table and not by passing an ordinance.”

Cases 20402-U-06-5196 and 20687-U-06-5271



PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

NOTICE

THE WASHINGTON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION CONDUCTED A LEGAL PROCEEDING IN WHICH ALL PARTIES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT. THE COMMISSION RULED THAT WE COMMITTED UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES IN VIOLATION OF STATE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAWS, AND ORDERED US TO POST THIS NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES:

WE UNLAWFULLY interfered with employee rights and failed to meet and negotiate in good faith regarding mandatory topics for bargaining, by adopting a city ordinance changing the OPARB reporting and redacted file procedure without bargaining the decision to do so with the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild.

WE UNLAWFULLY interfered with employee rights and failed to meet and negotiate in good faith by adopting an implementation date of March 31, 2007 for those changes.

WE UNLAWFULLY interfered with employee rights and failed to meet and negotiate in good faith by making only one proposal in collective bargaining regarding the effects of the un-redacted file and confidentiality practices.

WE UNLAWFULLY interfered with employee rights and failed to meet and negotiate in good faith by implementing a city ordinance containing new un-redacted file and confidentiality policies prior to reaching agreement with the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild or receiving an interest arbitration award concerning those issues.

TO REMEDY OUR UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES:

WE WILL purge all findings of the OPARB based on un-redacted files reviewed for 2006 and 2007, and return any un-redacted documents and files from that time period to OPA;

WE WILL NOT give effect to Ordinance 122126;

WE WILL restore the *status quo ante* by reinstating the wages, hours, and working conditions which existed for bargaining unit employees prior to the change in the redacted file and confidentiality practices.

WE WILL, upon request, meet and negotiate with Seattle Police Officers’ Guild with respect to mandatory topics of bargaining.

WE WILL submit any issues unresolved in bargaining by March 31, 2008, to statutory interest arbitration proceedings under RCW 41.56.450.

WE WILL NOT, in any other manner, interfere with, restrain, or coerce our employees in the exercise of their collective bargaining rights under the laws of the State of Washington.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 4
- 6
- 8
- Officer of the Month
- Officer Involved Shooting
- Letters to the Editor

You'll Also Find:

President's Message.....	2	Face of Courage Seminar.....	9
Officer Risk or Safety.....	3	Retired News.....	10
PAC Contributors.....	5	Last Ring.....	12
I am a Police Officer.....	5	Editors Notes.....	12



The Guardian

SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS’ GUILD
2949 Fourth Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98134

Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 130



NCPSO/CWA, AFL-CIO
Local #7877

The Guardian

**Official publication of the
Seattle Police Officers' Guild**
2949 4th Avenue S.
Seattle, Washington 98134
Phone (206) 767-1150
E-mail: mail@SeattlePoliceGuild.org

GUILD OFFICERS

President
Rich O'Neill, Operations

Vice President
Roger Dixon, North Precinct

Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Umporowicz, South Precinct

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sergeant-at-Arms
John Abraham, Traffic

Position 1
Anthony Baily, Southwest Precinct

Position 2
Tom McLaughlin, West Precinct

Position 3
Ron Smith, Pawn Shop Squad

Position 4
Johnny Stevens, West Precinct

Position 5
Mike Severance, North Precinct

Position 6
Randy Robinson, Traffic

Position 7
Ben Hughey, South Precinct

Position 8
Ty Elster, North Precinct

Position 9
Deb Nicholson, Employment Services

Position 10
Jim Brakebill, Traffic

GUARDIAN STAFF

Editor
Ron Smith, Pawn Shop Squad

Editorial Board
Randy Robinson, Traffic
Deb Nicholson, Employment Services
Jim Brakebill, Traffic

Advertising Manager
Elizabeth Loy

Layout and Design Artist
Sarah Scott

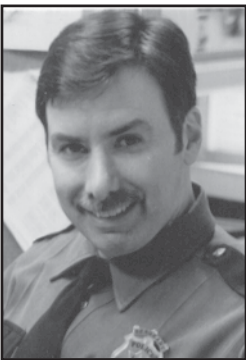
Editors Emeritus
Dick Rovig
Gordon Barnett
Don MacMillan
Joy Mundy

The opinions expressed in *The Guardian* do not necessarily reflect those of the Seattle Police Department.
Responsibility for signed articles remains solely with the author.
The Guardian is the only official publication published monthly by and for the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

NON-GUILD MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Call (206) 767-1150 for information

President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



As we embark on a new year, I'd like to discuss the State of Our Union and the State of our Department. First off as you saw on page one, SPOG scored a major victory over those who want changes to our contract but do not want to sit down at the bargaining table and truly negotiate. Councilmember Licata chose to try and remove a piece of our labor contract by ordinance, rather than by negotiation. This ruling from the state PERC examiner officially called his actions unlawful. As I told the Mayor's review panel, SPOG will discuss any recommendations on discipline changes that they make in the proper venue. This ruling clearly states that the proper venue to discuss changes to discipline is at the bargaining table. I've told everyone involved that "everything is negotiable; it is just a matter of how badly you want it." Time will tell.

As you receive this edition, SPOG will have just completed the election of new board members. I want to thank each and every member who ran for office, regardless of the outcome. We all know those who sit around and complain, but it takes a special person to actually step up, get involved and try to make a difference. For that reason, we need to be ever mindful that nothing constructive was ever accomplished by "complainers." Real change is affected by those who participate and get involved. I do all the "New Officer Orientation Sessions" during POST-BLET and I always tell them the same thing: No one person is "The Guild." We are all "The Guild" and the organization will only be as strong as its members. I also tell them that I understand that not everyone can be greatly involved in Guild activities. Throughout a career, there are different circumstances that require our attention. For the newbies, they need to concentrate on getting through the training phase and successfully completing probation. That should be their focus. I know in my early career, I focused my off-duty time on coaching my four children in youth sports and working off-duty to afford private school. Once they made it to high school, I had more time available and I started to get more involved with the Guild. My point is that everyone has their own set of circumstances that can dictate the level of participation. One thing that EVERYONE can do, regardless of their time restraints, is vote. SPOG sends a self-addressed stamped envelope to your residence so that you can vote in the privacy of your home. It costs you nothing, but just a few moments of your time. When members write comments it also gives the Board of Directors valuable feedback. Another thing that everyone can do for the organization is to refuse to engage in the rumor mill. If something sounds too outrageous, it probably is! Rumors do not help this organization. We need to challenge those who start or spread a rumor with the facts. We need to expose their falsehoods with the correct information. If you ever have a question on anything SPOG-related, call me or e-mail me directly. I answer all my calls and e-mails and I actually enjoy quashing the rumors.

The Seattle Police Officers' Guild is in excellent shape as we begin 2008! We have just completed our annual, by-laws mandated, financial audit and everything is in proper working order. Many of you heard that we just finished a two year criminal investigation involving a former SPOG civilian employee. She pled guilty to embezzlement and reimbursed SPOG in full for the theft and for our expenses during the proceeding. She will be sentenced in Federal Court in April. To avoid any conflict, the King County Sheriff conducted the investigation and I'd like to compliment the work done by Detective Will Marik. He was meticulous and unrelenting in his investigation and his attention to detail was exemplary. The case was very complicated but his outstanding work led to the guilty plea. I want to also acknowledge SPOG Operations Director, Elizabeth Loy, for assisting the detective during this long and difficult investigation. I was especially appalled to find that much of the criminal theft activity occurred just weeks after the death of former SPOG President, Ken Saucier. To think that you can steal from the police is one thing, but to try and do it when the organization is devastated with grief is repulsive.

SPOG continues to be strong administratively through the work of our many committees. The Grievance Committee continues to track grievances so that none are lost due to timelines. The Discipline Committee works hard to assist members with discipline appeals and to stay ahead of the latest OPA issues. The Negotiations Research Committee is constantly researching our comparables and they provide the SPOG negotiation team with updated information that may become valuable if we end up in arbitration. The Political Action Committee just completed an election season with resounding success. They are already

researching the local political scene for the next round of elections.

The committees will get new board members after the recent SPOG elections and they are always looking for input from the membership as a whole. If you have an interest in any area, you can still contribute, even if you are not on the board. SPOG continues to be the largest police labor union in the Northwest. We are in sound financial and administrative shape! I continue to remind people that a great deal of credit for our excellent shape should go to the officers who "walked this walk" before us. We would not enjoy our current status without the efforts of all those officers who got involved during their careers and built a solid foundation that we currently stand upon!

Now for the State of the Department. My outlook is not as bright, but there is always room for hope. Let's start with the good news. In November, *The Seattle P-I* had a short story that they buried on page B2 which detailed that, after a recent City of Seattle survey, most residents give police "high marks." The article stated that 84 % of those surveyed think that police officers treat citizens fairly and courteously! To me that is simply incredible! In a time when officers are working in grossly understaffed assignments, they still deliver high quality public service and leave people feeling good.

What this also tells me is that the "worker bees" keep this place running and somehow find a way to get the job done. Just like in WTO when the city was on the verge of chaos with a potential for serious injuries and incredible property damage, the "worker bees" pulled together, restored order, and saved this city. It wasn't the politicians or the commanders sitting behind (or under) a desk, it was the officers and sergeants who did the dirty work!

I see the department on the verge of some serious problems and I don't see enough "worker bees" available to make a difference. Recent headlines proclaim, "Gangs Taking More of Seattle Kids" and "Wave of Burglaries hits Magnolia Homes and Businesses." The patrol transition to Neighborhood Policing is just about a month old now. The department re-drew the boundaries for districts and precincts. They also did away with relief squads and went back to in-squad relief. The really sad part, as outlined in the above stories, is that the average taxpayer is being led to believe that Neighborhood Policing is going to make a difference. The average street cop knows better. What will make a difference is having enough "worker bees" to concentrate on a problem and effectively deal with it. This is nothing new. If I'm a burglar and I know (from casing a neighborhood) that I never see a squad car, why wouldn't I focus my activities in that area? On the other hand if an area is thick with a police presence, I'm probably going to move my trade elsewhere. SPD is in a staffing crisis. They are not meeting hiring goals and they are losing experienced officers to other departments. How bad will it need to get before someone steps up and shows some leadership? Showing a community group some new precinct map doesn't soothe their concerns when their home is ransacked and violated.

This is all about priorities. We will not get enough new recruits and we will continue to lose experienced officers until the city recognizes the problem and decides to make SPD an attractive place to work. Start by settling the SPOG contract, now! It is not a matter of an inability to afford a good contract; it is that the city would rather spend the money elsewhere. Those in authority are hoping that the citizens stop talking about the staffing crisis. The good news is that the citizens are not going to stop. They are going to see through the maps and charts and realize that we still don't have enough officers. They will become more and more frustrated over the inaction. When this happens who will be the scapegoat? How many politicians will need to be voted out for ignoring this issue? How many police commander heads will need to roll for feeding the city council and mayor with useless maps and double-speak? See, I told you there was reason to hold out hope.

I'd like to conclude this month by saying that I am honored to serve another term as your president. Although I did not have an opponent, I am humbled by your confidence in me and I will strive to continue to work hard for all of you. I also want to recognize Officer Tom Umporowicz for his many years of service to the Guild as both a board member and Secretary/Treasurer. "Umpy" leaves the board after more than 10 years of service and his efforts are very much appreciated. When you see him down south, be sure and thank him! Be safe at all times!

Officer Risk or Safety?

By Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct

Last month Nick Bowns called for officers, detectives, supervisors, and administrators to send letters to the editor of *The Guardian* either supporting or cursing the assertions he made in his excellent January article. I hope I'm wrong, but I'll be surprised if more than a comment or two appear. Why surprised? It seems there's a perception that contrary opinions expressed in *The Guardian* (and elsewhere) make one liable for retaliation from admin types by denying promotions, assignments, and training.

When someone asks me if I've ever suffered any retribution, subtle or overt, for expressing my point of view in *The Guardian*, I tell them I have not. Like Nick, I've asked many times for anyone to respond to my questions and concerns, to tell me if they think I'm full of crap, and most of all to answer that lingering question: Has officer safety changed since I was first hired?

I'll reiterate: When I first came on I was assigned to squads of about thirteen to fifteen officers each for three sectors. When we'd drop to six or seven officers for the shift, our sergeant would admonish us to put the "blinders" on, answer our calls, back each other, but not to compromise our officer safety by conducting pro-active traffic stops and shakes. Today we're lucky to have thirteen officers for an entire watch, at least at the East Precinct, and yet officers are still encouraged to be pro-active and to conduct shakes and traffic stops despite the perpetual inadequate staffing.

So, am I to understand that in 1992 I'm taught that having only six or seven officers for a squad of normally fourteen compromises officer safety, but today in 2008 a

squad with only one, two, or three officers is somehow safe enough for pro-activity? This pressure comes from the top; as long as those at the top call for pro-active "productivity" regardless of a lack of resources, the order trickles down, like pee down a brick wall, onto patrol officers. Good commanders shouldn't expect their officers to take undue risks, but if they feel pressure from above, or, God forbid, in pursuit of their own career ambitions, officers in turn feel pressure to perform beyond the threshold of officer safety. When will someone have the balls to tell the Mayor and the (3rd highest paid, in the nation—by the way) City Council, "No! We don't have enough officers and it's reckless to require officers to perform as if a shortage didn't exist."

Now, I understand the conundrum or two this raises. We all know that we cement much of our reputations as officers during our first years on the department, while in patrol. So no one can fault rookies for wanting to make this good impression. Also, they're new cops and they desperately want to cop—that's admirable, but is it wise to encourage, explicitly or tacitly, risky behavior? How can it not place a huge liability on the department and city if (when) an officer or citizen gets seriously injured or killed and it can be shown to be a direct, or even tangential, result of what just may be the criminally negligent lack of staffing of Seattle's police department by its city administration?

And then there's the issue of Big Brother. They give us badges, guns, training, and commissions as law enforcement officers who risk our health, safety, and lives, to perform a job with life and death responsibilities and consequences. However, the City of Seattle demonstrates it simply doesn't trust the people it hires to

provide the fundamental government service to its citizens. This fact is evinced by the massive electronic leashes with which officers are being shackled. Convicts on home detention won't be as well-monitored as a Seattle Police officer. And don't even get me started about a labor contract—the city wants you to think they're pro labor, that is, unless they're dealing with the police or fire department unions. They're mired on wanting concessions from us regarding disciplinary issues, highlighting, once again, their laser beam focus on the minute amount we do wrong, and their ignoring of the enormous amount we do right; we're not the bad guys! Intelligent folks, realistic folks, non-ideologically driven folks with foresight understand the focus needs to be on attracting and retaining officers for SPD.

With another nine officers bailing on the most recent orders, does anyone doubt that the lack of a decent contract and the morale-crushing policies continually inflicted on officers won't result in more fine officers fleeing an organization careening headlong for disaster? Officers are weary of the year after year, do-more-with-less edict, with little if any appreciation, and certainly no end in sight. It seems our leaders won't be satisfied until they've wrung every last drop of blue from our demoralized ranks.

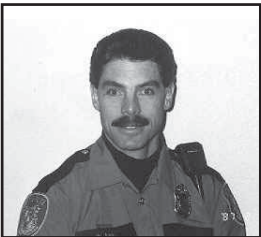
If this city and department doesn't feel its police officers can be trusted

without hobbling us with electronic monitoring of our every actions, then, rather than sending emails to *The Guardian*, perhaps one by one we should begin sending the city our badges—oh, wait a minute; that's already happening!

To end on a brief, but positive note, there is no doubt that one thing the Seattle Police Department does very well is take care of injured officers from other agencies when they're brought to Seattle for treatment. A Chief Deputy with the Grant County Sheriff's Office addressed our roll call yesterday. He felt a letter alone would be inadequate in expressing the depth of his department's appreciation for our department's efforts on their behalf.

The Chief Deputy explained having struggled to put together a schedule to provide hospital guards for their injured brother across the mountains. But, he choked back tears as he described how touched they were when they arrived at Harborview and saw that SPD had already posted hospital guards to the deputy's room and were arranging whatever hospitality we could provide to the wounded deputy, his colleagues, and family. Again, I'm proud of this thing that SPD does that is led by Officer John Abraham and the Hospital Response Team, which is supported from the Chief all the way down to the newest rookie officer, and does so well.

All *Guardian* submissions are due
by February 15, 2008
to spogguardian@yahoo.com



Mike Burns
S.P.D. Reserve

The Keystone Program

Direct Line:
(425) 643-6111

- ◆ CONV, VA, FHA, REFI, 0% DOWN, PURCHASE, HELOC'S, LINES OF CREDIT, CONSTRUCTION, REMODEL
- ◆ Over **150 Lenders** to chose from, Guarantees you the **Best Rate!!**
- ◆ UNLIKE OTHER LENDERS, THE KEYSTONE PROGRAM WILL USE YOUR **OVERTIME, OFF DUTY, COURT AND METRO** TO APPROVE YOUR LOAN!!!
- ◆ Please visit www.seattlepoliceguild.org (at website click on "members") for your **FREE** pre-approval and credit report!!
- ◆ Police, Fire, City, County Employees, and their extended familes save over **\$1,000.00!!!**



Superior Service and Results For All Your Real Estate Needs!

- ☑ Having a **20+ year veteran** of Seattle-area law enforcement as a husband has given me a deep understanding of the **unique real estate needs** and preferences of police officers and their families!
- ☑ As a **dedicated full-time agent** having earned the Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designation held by only about 4% of agents nationally, I have helped **hundreds of officers** obtain home ownership through excellence in customer service!
- ☑ **Ask me about my special police family programs!**

My **knowledge and experience** can help you if you are buying your first home, second home, last home, or investment property (1031 exchanges)!

Representing sellers and buyers, I will treat your transaction like my own personal transaction.

That's my promise to you!

SOLD BY
 Windermere

Sue Hammermaster
(425)417-5733



Call me to learn about using a **police officer's deferred comp contributions** as a down payment to purchase a home!

**Mastering
your
move**

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate/Renton, Inc.

www.suehammermaster.com or sue@suehammermaster.com

Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officer of the Month for January 2008 is Officer Jeff Thompson of the Southwest Precinct, as nominated by Officer Larry Longley for actions during a stolen vehicle arrest.

On December 6th, 2007, Officer Thompson on-viewed a stolen vehicle on Delridge Way SW. As he began to follow the vehicle, the stolen vehicle fled. Officer Thompson activated his emergency equipment and notified radio of the situation. Moments later, the occupants (driver and passenger) jumped out of the still moving vehicle. The now driverless stolen vehicle continued in an area with several pedestrians and directly towards a school bus. Officer Thompson made a quick decision that he had to stop the vehicle, so he pulled up alongside the driverless vehicle and intentionally bumped the car off the road. The bump did the job and the vehicle missed a parked car, jumped the curb and came to rest against a building. Officer Thompson then secured his vehicle and put the stolen vehicle in park before starting a foot pursuit. Due to his actions and excellent description the suspects were captured.

Officer Longley noted in his nomination that, “Due to Officer Thompson’s commitment to duty, professionalism, courageous actions and quick thinking, a possible tragedy was averted, with only minor damage to the patrol vehicle, suspect vehicle and private property.”

Also nominated this month:

Sergeant Ty Elster nominated Officer Dave Sullivan of the North Precinct for his actions at a vehicle collision. Officer Sullivan arrived on scene where the vehicle was on fire and a passenger was trapped inside the vehicle. Officer Sullivan directed a

bystander to cover the passenger with his coat while he attacked the fire that had engulfed the engine compartment and the dashboard. Officer Sullivan was able to put the fire out and when SFD arrived, it took them 30 minutes to cut the passenger out of the vehicle. Clearly Officer Sullivan saved the passengers life!

Officers Rob Hagerty, Tom Hanley and Jon Huber of the North Precinct were nominated for spotting a carjacked vehicle and then locating it unoccupied. They watched the unoccupied vehicle and then coordinated with SWAT and K9 in the event that the occupants returned. A short time later, the suspects returned to the vehicle and started driving. Officers pinned the vehicle in and although the suspect rammed Officer Hanley’s car, a successful felony stop resulted in the arrest of four suspects. A loaded handgun was recovered under the driver’s seat. During interviews, passengers gave statements implicating the driver in the carjacking. Two of the four were eventually booked for the crime.

Sergeant Dave Unger of Southwest ACT nominated Officer Ed Chan for his work over several months investigating a cocaine trafficker. After several months, Officer Chan developed enough information to write and obtain a search warrant for the suspect’s vehicle. On December 17th the vehicle was stopped and the warrant executed. Three ounces of cocaine were recovered and Officer Chan wrote an additional warrant for the suspect’s house, where 820 grams of cocaine were recovered. A total haul of almost a kilo of cocaine.

Keep the nominations coming; as of the writing of this article I have no nominations for next month. Stay safe.



Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union (SMCU) is proud to support the Seattle Police Guild’s *Officer of the Month* program. Each month, Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union will donate \$250 to one of the Guild’s charitable funds in the officer’s name. The winner will choose the fund of his/her choice. The Guild’s charitable funds are as follows:

Help the Officer Fund
This fund supports Seattle Police Officers who are in critical need of assistance. Whether facing a life threatening illness, suffering from an injury or their family needs support after their loved one has died in the line of duty, this fund is available to those officers and their families who need it most. All funds raised go directly to supporting an officer in need.

Fallen Officer Fund
This fund will allow SPOG to provide emergency financial assistance to SPD families who must handle unexpected expenses in the event of an officer’s death.

Kenneth A. Saucier Memorial Scholarship Fund
This fund annually awards \$1000 to dependents of sworn Seattle Police Officers. This scholarship was founded in the memory of Seattle Police Officers’ Guild President Ken Saucier. Scholarships are awarded in June. Call the Guild Office for more information.

Youth Athletic Fund
This fund awards funds to help support and sponsor the athletic activities of SPOG dependants. The Guild is proud to actively sponsor youth participation in athletics by awarding sponsorship grants to members.

Thank you goes to SMCU for its’ ongoing support of these important charitable activities. All proceeds from these funds go directly to support law enforcement officers and their families. All donations are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to: SPOG, 2949 4th Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98134. Please make checks payable to: *SPOG*, with the fund indicated in the memo line.

Congratulations to Officer Jeff Thompson! SMCU will be donating \$250 to the *Fallen Officer Fund* in recognition of Officer Thompson’s outstanding efforts on the job this month.

Living with Pain? Get Over It—**FAST!**

Introducing...
Gentle, Soothing Pain Relief for Cops—Fully covered by your health insurance plan!

Ease your aches and pains—including back pain, headaches, and injuries—with effective pain relief programs from Level III Medispa. And best of all... it's fully covered by your police health insurance plan!

Our drug- and surgery-free approach to pain relief corrects the source of your pain as opposed to merely masking symptoms.

Covered treatment options include...

- Massage Therapy
- Chiropractic Care
- Physical Therapy

LEVEL III
MEDISPA

We'll verify your insurance coverage before you come in!

FREE Consultation

CALL NOW
206.957.9050

Free Parking – Flexible Hours
Open Saturdays

825 8th Avenue North in Seattle
Find us in South Lake Union
behind the Marriott Courtyard Hotel
www.level3medispa.com

“We Proudly Support the Police and Family”

Your Complete Auto Repair and Body Work.
Best Price, Quality, Integrity, Honesty

Tony Lee, Owner

One Stop GREENWOOD Auto Repair

30% Discount Repair or Body

Tel: (206) 706-2778
Cell: (206) 713-7322
Fax: (206) 789-0894
8208 Greenwood Avenue N.
Seattle, WA 98103

GREENWOOD Auto Body and Paint

Thank You PAC Contributors

SPOG would like to thank the following people who have donated to the SPOG PAC in the past year. These people, both retired officers and friends of SPOG have generously donated to help SPOG continue to be politically involved in the community, working towards increased benefits and rights of Seattle Police Officers.

- Harriet Benjamin
- L.P. Bodvin
- Bob Caruth
- Lynn Coney
- Clark Elster
- Davis Hart
- Elmer Johnston, Jr.
- Robert McKechnie
- Kenneth Nelson
- Harvey Olson
- Ernest Randall
- William Schuler
- Rudy Sutlovich
- Ken Thomas

Officers Who Serve Their Country



Photo Submitted by Officer Christine Nichols

Seattle Police Officers Christine Nichols and P.J. Fox ran into each other while on a military mission to Sendai, Japan the first part of December 2007. PJ is a captain assigned to the 156th Information Operations cell, while Christine, a Lieutenant Colonel is assigned to a Civil Affairs unit based in Portland OR. PJ received a coin from the commanding general of I-Corps and Fort Lewis, Lieutenant General Charles Jacoby for his outstanding work during the mission.



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of February!



40 years of Service

Officer Dave Gavurnik, North Precinct
Officer Mike Severance, North Precinct

20 years of Service

Sergeant Erik Allen, CIS
Sergeant Mike Magee, SWAT
Officer Jack Bailey, East Precinct

15 years of Service

Detective Lora Alcantara, Employment Services
Detective Ron Brundage, Vice
Detective Eugene Foster, SAU
Officer Jeff Johnson, North Precinct
Officer Brian Lundin, West Precinct



Northwest Realty Associates, LLC

900 SW 16th St., Ste.300
Renton, WA 98055

Joyce Cambronero
206-271-7591



Wife Of Officer
JoJo Cambronero, So. Precinct

Specializing in Residential Real Estate Sale in South and East King County.

Multiple Discounts If You Are Buying and Selling.

If you are looking for a Realtor that will represent your best interest, Call me for a consultation.

E-Mail JoyceCambronero@pnwrealty.com

Discounted Commissions For Law Enforcement.

athenian inn



Overlooking
Seattle's Waterfront
in the Heart
of the
Pike Place Market

Good Food & Beverages
"Old Fashion Ice Cream Soda Fountain"
Exciting selection of Foreign & Domestic Beer !

Breakfast, Lunch and early Dinners
Open Monday-Saturday 6:30am-6:30pm

****Bacon Bowl President****
Office:.....206-935-7700
Res:.....206-937-8873
FAX:.....206-935-7000
Pager:.....206-997-4200
E-mail.....harrietb@johnlscott.com
5242 California Avenue S.W.
Seattle, WA 98136

THIS OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE



Harriet Benjamin
Sales Associate

Member of the Police Family since 1939

SUPPORT THE GUARDIAN!
...by using our advertisers!!
Let them know you heard about them in The Guardian

Take the Stress out of Valentines Day!

I will wrap your gift for your Sweetie and include a card and deliver it to work prior to Valentines Day!!!

SILPADA

Sterling Silver Jewelry with a 100%

Satisfaction & lifetime warranty!!

Melisa Devine, Wife of Sgt. Mike Devine

Email me for a catalog: MelisaDevine@aol.com

View the online catalog: Mysilpada.com/melisa.devine

Officer Involved Shootings

By Officer Mike Severance, Board Position #5

In 1974, a few months after the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) shootout in Los Angeles, I spent 3 days with LAPD SWAT. They were the role models for the nation at the time, and I can’t begin to tell you how impressed I was and how hospitable and helpful they were. Hearing dozens of eye witness accounts of the SLA incident led me to begin my informal study of officer involved shootings. When I returned to Seattle, I wrote a SWAT proposal for SPD. It was circulated throughout the Command Staff and was well received. But nothing happened. In 1980, the Chief assigned a lieutenant to write another SWAT proposal. That lieutenant asked me to assist him. Now that was fun. I got to test fire a lot of weapons, and I got to attend sniper school at Ft. Lewis. The new proposal was submitted. Once again, nothing happened. A 1984 incident produced one of Seattle’s infamous Blue Ribbon Panels. As a result, SPD finally got a SWAT Unit. But the term SWAT was unacceptable to the Chief at the time, so it was called ERT for Emergency Response Team.

There was no Internet in 1974. Information on officer-involved shootings was not readily available. What you could probably call a hobby involved letters to other agencies. Some responded, and some didn’t. The Internet has made things much easier, but not as easy as you may think. In a statistic driven profession, there is still no standardized national data collection procedure, which gathers all the pertinent data on officer-involved shootings. And there are big differences in how individual agencies collect that data. There is a lot of information out there. I think there is only one real reason for collecting it and looking at it. That is to ask ourselves questions and make changes that will improve officers’ chances for survival. The FBI publishes annual reports, which contain a lot of useful data, but they lack some details, which I think are pertinent. It’s impossible to come up with a totally accurate picture because of the lack of standardization, but it is possible to come up with a fairly reliable one.

What does it take to be a good marksman? Sight picture and trigger control are the answer. That’s how we have all been trained. Focus on the front sight and squeeze. Why is that so hard? It’s hard because it is not a natural act. When we feel threatened by someone or something,

we are wired to focus on the threat, not a piece of metal on top of a gun barrel. This natural tendency is called “threat focus”. It is the reason we have to learn to focus on the front sight through repetitive practice. The human eye cannot focus on two things at different distances at the same time. For instance, it is impossible for an officer to focus on an unknown object in a suspect’s hand while at the same time focusing on the front sight. It takes time, a fraction of a second, to switch focus from one to the other. “Threat focus” might also explain one statistic. In 1981, NYPD found that in 70% of their officer involved shootings (obviously in which the officers survived); the officers did not use their sights. As the distance between the officer and the threat increases, the instances of an officer using sights increases. As distances increase, hit ratios decrease. It would appear that target shooting and combat shooting are two different things.

In 1992, the FBI released an in depth study of 50 felonious killings of police officers. In 1997, they did something very different and very interesting. They published a study on officer-involved shootings in which the officers survived. After sifting through more than 600 cases, they selected 40 involving 52 officers. They collected data on some factors which had never entered my mind, but which are germane. One thing that study showed is that, compared to the bad guys, we are not very good shots. The officers’ hit ratio was 41%. The bad guys’ hit ratio was 91%. This large disparity can be explained in part by the fact that some of the officers were shot before they returned fire. Other studies put the overall hit ratio of officers using pistols at 25% to 30%. Unfortunately, in almost all of those 40 cases, the bad guy(s) got off the first shot(s). That’s understandable considering an officer takes about 35/100 of a second to make the shoot/don’t shoot decision. If the officer’s weapon is holstered, it takes time to draw. And, if an officer uses their sights and is still focused on the threat, another fraction of a second to change their focus from the threat to the front sight and take the shot. All that time adds up.

601 U.S. officers were killed or assaulted with firearms between 1991 and 2000. 71% of them were killed/

assaulted within 10 feet of their assailant(s). 50% were killed/assaulted within 5 feet. NYPD lost 250 officers to firearms between 1854 and 1979. 82% of them were killed within 6 feet of their assailant(s).

A majority of officer-involved shootings occurs under diminished light conditions, and it doesn’t take a genius to know that the hit ratios under those conditions are lower than the hit ratios during daylight incidents.

In 1970, NYPD implemented a “Firearms Discharge Report”. They have collected a lot of data. Between 1988 and June 2001, NYPD recorded 3,657 shooting incidents in which officers fired 9,899 rounds at suspects. The average shots fired per officer were 2.7. The average shots fired per incident were 3.6. The hit ratio was 22%.

Miami’s Metro Dade Police did a study comparing the number of shots fired by and hit ratios of officers using revolvers and officers using semi autos. The time span was 1988 to 1994. In 44 shooting incidents involving officers with revolvers, officers fired 2.5 rounds per incident with a hit ratio of 19%. In 79 incidents involving semi autos, officers fired 3.2 rounds per incident with a hit ratio of 17%. Chalk one up for the old wheel gun.

What is SPD’s hit ratio and average number of rounds fired per incident? I don’t know. The last time I checked, SPD did not compile this type of data. I have yet to read any studies, which have found a definitive correlation between pistol range qualification scores and the hit ratios in real life encounters.

A few shooting incidents involving more than one officer have gotten a

lot of attention from the national media. These types of incidents have been given a lot of different names such as “Bunch Shootings”, “Contagious Fire”, “Reflexive Shooting” and “Sympathetic Shooting”. There have been studies on these types of incidents, and the ones I have read advise that it is too soon to jump to conclusions or make generalizations. We should not classify an officer’s behavior during a shooting as sympathetic, reflexive or anything else until many more facts have been collected and exhaustive studies have been done.

There are lots of studies on the aftermath of an officer involved shooting and what should be done. There are lots of statistics on how an officer **might** react after a shooting. It’s important to remember that not every officer fits into the same niche. To this day, I wish my academy class had been given the opportunity to hear from an officer who had gone through a shooting and the aftermath, and that me and my classmates had been given the chance to ask questions that are on all new recruits’ minds.

All this data represents just a fraction of what is available. But I would be interested in some feedback from officers and their ideas about how we can improve our chances of survival in shooting incidents. Feel free to drop me your ideas at boardpos5@seattlepoliceguild.org.

The net staffing change for 2007 was a +14. That almost makes up for the 2006 staffing change of -17. The net staffing change for 2008 is a -2. Based on the number of our officers who have tested or are planning to test with other agencies, I’m not predicting a bumper crop for 2008. Be safe out there.

Stress Relief for First Responders

Mark E. Hughes L.M.P.

(206) 324-5433

821 E. Thomas St • Seattle

Lic.# MA00006415

1/3 OFF 1st Visit • Insurance Accepted

SEATTLE METROPOLITAN CREDIT UNION

SERVING THE CITY OF SEATTLE FOR 75 YEARS

206.398.5500 | WWW.SMCU.COM | 800.334.2489

DOWNTOWN SEATTLE | SEATTLE CITY HALL | NORTHGATE | LYNNWOOD
KIRKLAND | RAINIER AVENUE | GEORGETOWN | SOUTHCENTER

I am a Police Officer

By Officer Raleigh Evans, Southwest Precinct

People often ask what being a cop is like, and why I do it. Last week there was something posted at work that an unidentified person wrote. It was titled “I am a Police Officer”. I decided to borrow the idea, and write one of my own. Everything in this is true, and is from my personal experience. I am in no way unique, every police officer in every Department, in every city, in every state, in every country, has similar stories. I want people to understand what police officers go through.

I am a Police Officer. I am also a son, a husband, a father, a friend. But it is my occupation that sets me apart. When I go to work I shed my civilian clothes and put on the uniform. I put on a bullet-resistant vest, wool shirt and pants, and black combat boots. I carry two guns, spare ammunition, a Taser, two pairs of handcuffs, a radio, two flashlights, and a knife. I gain 28 pounds from the weight of all this equipment. In a fight for life, you must have a “Plan B”, so redundancy is key. I keep a rifle, bullet-resistant helmet, and gas mask in my car in case things get exceptionally bad. I am trained to use all of these tools to defend the lives of others, and sometimes, myself. I am trained to deal with CBRNE incidents (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) and terrorist attacks, with the knowledge that these all carry the high likelihood of death.

What normal people run from, I must run to. When you are likely having the worst day of your life, and call 911, I come. I have watched countless people die from injuries too great to survive. I have seen bodies mangled so badly they were unrecognizable as human. I have arrested a woman who stabbed her husband because he drank the last beer. I have arrested a man who shot his girlfriend because she “disrespected” him. She later told a judge and jury that I was lying just to put her boyfriend in jail. I have sat down and talked with murderers, rapists, child molesters, prostitutes,

and drug dealers. I talk them into telling me all the gory details of their crime in order to do all I can to ensure they go to prison for as long as possible.

I once interviewed a 20 year-old man that I arrested for child abuse. He told me that he put a 9 month-old baby into a sink of scalding hot water for about 10 minutes to “shut it up” because it wouldn’t quite crying. The child suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns over more than 50% of his body. The suspect had known the child’s mother for less than a week, and was watching the child while she was gone to buy drugs and alcohol for them to share. As he told his story, every other officer within earshot left the room. They could no longer contain their anger. At the end of the shift at 4:30 am I went home and woke my infant son. I cried as I held him. I can still see the burns on that baby in my mind’s eye.

I have driven well over 100 miles per hour chasing dangerous felons. I have had two people kill themselves because they did not want to go back to prison and swore they would not be taken alive. I have been at the scene of more than 70 murders. I have stepped between a man with a knife and his intended victim. I have stepped between a man with a gun and his intended victim. I have been called everything you can imagine, and a few things you probably can’t. I have had gang members attempt to follow me home. I have been assaulted, spit on, hit by a bottle full of human urine, had a Molotov cocktail thrown at me, and been shot at twice. I cannot say that I was the intended target, but when you hear the unmistakable sound of a bullet going past your head, it’s a moot point.

I have been hit by a drunk driver. He was set free before I left the hospital. The doctor said I was lucky not to have sustained serious internal injuries. But my back will never be right again. I have flat feet and bone

spurs in both heels from kicking in doors and chasing suspects on foot.

When I meet new people outside of work and they learn what I do I am often asked, “Have you ever shot anyone?” I usually try to laugh it off with some statement like, “Not yet.....”, and a mean look. Sometimes they get it, sometimes they don’t. The fact is that I have never had to shoot anyone, and hope I never have to. However, I have spent countless hours on drills and practice to try to ensure that if I am placed in that position, I will survive and go home to my family. There have been four times in my nearly thirteen years on the force that I have had my finger on the trigger and was prepared to pull the trigger if necessary. In each instance the suspect made the decision at the last possible instant to back down. I remember each like it was yesterday. Making the decision to take a life changes something in you...even when you are not forced to do so.

I do not have a “normal” life. I work from 7:30 pm to 4:30 am. I don’t get nights, weekends, or holidays off. I miss BBQ’s, special events, and family functions because I have to work. I get called to court on my days off, and I can be disciplined if I don’t go. Sometimes I work all night, get a few hours sleep, go to court all day, and then go back to work all night. Sometimes I do not go home for several days.

When my workday ends the uniform comes off and the regular clothes go back on. I try to look just like you, but I am not. I always carry my badge, gun, and handcuffs; hidden from view. In a restaurant I sit with my back to the wall, facing the door, and always at the end of the table. I always look into the bank before I go in. I do not like to be in large crowds. I check the faces of everyone I see to make sure I don’t know them from “work.” I was once at the grocery store with my wife and

young boys. A very large man approached me and asked, “Remember me?” I placed myself between him and my family before telling him I did not recognize him. He told me, “You put me in prison.” I instinctively felt for my hidden handgun and for a few moments we stood face to face, and I wondered if he intended to assault me, my family, or both. After an eternity passed he told me he had changed, and we were “cool.” It could easily have been the opposite.

All this begs the question, “Why do you do it?” Sometimes I am not sure. Sometimes I would rather do just about anything else. Most of the time I can explain it this way: I like to think it is a “calling”. Between the “bad guys” and the “normal people” there needs to be a buffer, a divider. Between “Good” and “Evil”, there is what cops call the “thin blue line”. I am part of that line. It is who I am. I am a Police Officer.



“We proudly back and support the men & women of the Seattle Police Department”



Tina Bueche
SPD Proprietor
& Friend

Fashion for women from local artists and interesting lines from everywhere....

**206 First Avenue South
Seattle (206) 447-7731**

*Hours: 10-6 M-Th, 10-7 Fri,
12-6 Sat, 12-4 Sun*

Morris K. Fortmann, Jr. Attorney at law

PERSONAL SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL RESULTS



More Than 20 Years Experience

Divorce	Parenting Plans	Child Support
Child Relocation Act	Child Custody	Property Division
Modifications	Paternity	Wills
Pension Division (LEOFF)	Maintenance (Alimony)	Probate

For Rent

Arizona getaway at Green Valley. Great place to come in Fall-Winter-Spring. Fully furnished 2 BR-2BA. Nice mountain view. Very reasonable rates per week or monthly available.

Call John Sullivan at (425) 788-1158

Come See Our New Office!



Jennifer DeCastro

- For 40 years, **Bellevue ENT Clinic** has offered exceptional hearing health care to the Bellevue community.
- We are proud to announce the opening of our new facility, **SoundHearing.**
- **Jennifer DeCastro**, board-certified Doctor of Audiology, has over 20 years of experience to help you hear better.



Located on the main floor of the Overlake Medical Tower
1135 116th Avenue NE • Suite 165 • Bellevue
425-278-1805

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the event you blinked and missed my 35-minute career with SPD, let me introduce myself. I’m Ernie DeBella #6844 and I work 3rd watch patrol in the SW Precinct. My serial number is evidence of my limited experience as a police officer. That being said, I’m 39 years old and do have some life experience.

I have been married to my wife, Mary, for 15 years, and we have two kids, Kellyanne (9) and Joseph (6). Before I was a police officer I served six years as a sonar technician in the Navy and 12 years of dealing with the public as a produce clerk. I’ve worked for large organizations and companies.

I was speaking with some retired and working officers recently and they had an interaction with certain members of the command staff. This interaction was related to me. It seems that some of the Lieutenants, Captains and Assistant Chiefs at this meeting actually read *The Guardian*. They were amused by some of the articles being written about the recently implemented changes, staffing shortages, and that we were working without a contract. The consensus of those who heard the conversation was that the command staff thinks this is just standard issue griping, that it’s not a serious reflection of the morale of patrol officers, and that those who write the articles are an amusement to them.

I reflected on this event and thought back to my interview with an Assistant Chief just prior to entering the Academy. I remember one particular point he advised me on. He said, “You will meet officers who do nothing but complain. They are burned out and bitter. Stay away from them because they’ll do nothing but drag you down and keep you from getting what you want from this job.” I knew he was stating a truism. I’m surprised I got hired because my response was, “I know what you mean. I fell in with that sort of crowd when I was first in the Navy. I wasted three years with that attitude before I woke up and started getting something out of my enlistment.” The look on the Assistant Chief’s face was not a comfort to me.

I got a very similar bit of advice from retired officer John Sullivan. He told me that I shouldn’t get bitter on the job, but to keep having fun, and that, “You’ll get out of the job exactly what you put into it.” That Assistant Chief and John Sullivan were both correct. I’m doing my best to not get bitter and soured on this job. Heck, I like chasing bad guys enough that I still eat my lunch in my patrol car at times.

But if any of the command staff are still reading up to this point, don’t think just because you read the same article complaining about the same staffing issues, by the same author every month in *The Guardian*, that it is not reflective of the opinion of a majority of the patrol officers. I know of more than one officer who has had a collision at work while trying to race to back another officer on a night where we were at, “minimum staffing.”

Take a look at the recent resignations and look at those serial numbers. How many 6700-6900 numbers are you seeing on that list? Do you believe they all are leaving for the normal reasons? Can they all be leaving just for a shorter commute, or because the job is different than what they envisioned? How many of those younger guys are resigning to go to other agencies? Are there reasons other than pay or take home cars?

The grass isn’t always greener on the other side of the fence, but every person in this department, starting at the top, should ask themselves these questions. “Are there aspects of this department, that I’m responsible for, that could be improved, and would those improvements have a positive influence towards recruitment and retention of staff?” Are there aspects of this department that I’m responsible for that make recruitment and retention tougher...harder... difficult...nearly impossible? “

Why is it that we only had, what was it, less than 50 applicants show up for a recent testing opportunity? Do we really want to blame it on “all our applicants are....”in Iraq,” or “taking IT jobs that pay more money?” I don’t believe it is because the recruiting unit isn’t making a good faith effort.”

Fighter pilots don’t do it for the money. They do it because they LOVE IT, or they’d all being doing the milk run for some airline. So when the Air Force was hemorrhaging pilots in the 90’s, losing them to the Vegas to Omaha hop, it wasn’t because they wanted to make more money. It was because the Air Force and Pentagon were doing something so poorly that those pilots lost the desire to fly the best money could buy.

While I would never put my skills as a police officer in the “fighter pilot” class, the analogy holds true for younger officers leaving this department. Why would an officer in his/her 20’s, getting to chase genuine bad guys in what passes for a big city in Washington, leave the department?

They should be having the time of their lives. This is what they dreamt of doing as little kids. And yet, there they go. To Federal Way, Lakewood, Snohomish County, and I better mention Lakewood again because they seem to have direct pipeline to our H.R. department.

So I’m left with only two possible conclusions. Either there are some serious problems with some of the basic elements of how our department deals with and treats it’s patrol officers, and those problems are having a negative effect on retention of officers, and the recruitment of new officers. Or, am I just a whiner and a complainer?

Ernie DeBella, #6844

Dear Editor,

I’m a nobody, a mere peon who serves the great oligarchy that runs the City of Seattle. I’ve been with this department for a short while, but I know unrest when I see it. When I think of the Neighborhood Policing Plan, I think of those cheesy Pepto Bismol commercials — “*Nausea, Heartburn, Diarrhea.*”

Everyone who works for Seattle Police Department knows that we are understaffed and underpaid. The best part of my workday is roll call – painful as it is at 3 o’clock in the morning. That’s when I get to see all of my squad. I ask them if Mt. Baker was any good, or if their son beat Bellarmine Prep (basketball) on Friday. We talk about how bad the Seahawks played against Green Bay and how horrible Shaun Alexander really is. Oh, and my sergeant talks about something dealing with work.

I spent 8+ years on active duty in the military. I’ve seen great leadership, and poor leadership. But even worse than poor leadership, is poor management. When you build a Neighborhood Policing Plan – a program predicated on the addition of 100+ patrol officers – why introduce that plan before you’re ready? SPD employees suffer from the hasty implementation of this plan, just so we can tell Seattle that we are more efficient than a recycled, soy-powered, hybrid Toyota Prius. Yeah right... it took me an hour to write an 8-page shoplift report where someone stole a few bottles of wine from the local “Stop-n-Rob.”

With the introduction of the Neighborhood Policing Plan, squad integrity has been destroyed. Patrol officers now work for two different sergeants and have an entirely different squad composition. And we don’t even have the same court code... so choir practice is almost impossible. If I don’t know whom I’m working with, why should I care about them and cover their ass when IT hits the fan? Which sergeant do I work for?

But what do I know? I’m not even off probation yet. My buddy works for Tukwila PD, and they pay \$29.00 an hour for Step 1 patrol officers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Officer Ty Selfridge, SW Precinct

Face of Courage Seminar

Submitted by the SPD and SPD Family Support Group

The Face of Courage is the one-day seminar being presented on March 12, 2008 at the downtown Seattle Macy's for all SPD employees available to attend. Keynote speaker is Sergeant Major Barbara Titus, USMC, Marine Corps Installations West. Additionally, Chief Cathy Lanier of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department and Chief Anne Kirkpatrick of the Spokane Police Department will both be speaking as well as Dr. Dan Clark, the Washington State Patrol's in-house psychologist.

The focus of this year's seminar is to hear from leaders who have met and overcome challenges in their own lives regarding office politics, gender and race issues and a myriad of other challenges that occur in a stressful career and our lives in general. In this eight-hours, participants will have an opportunity to reflect on what resources, coping solutions, and strategies are available to help recharge or renew professional and personal commitments or goals to help anyone achieve new heights.

While the day is made up mostly of presentations, there will be plenty of time during the free Continental breakfast and lunch to reconnect and network with peers, friends, mentors and maybe even meet a new hero or two.

The event is hosted by SPD, with sponsors including the Seattle Police Foundation, CopTalk Radio, and Frito Lay. To register for the day seminar, email Edie Burke at edie.burke@seattle.gov.

Following the daytime Face of Courage seminar, The SPD and the SPD Family Support Group invite you to an evening event for SPD officers and their spouse or domestic partner at the SPD Support Facility (Park 90/5) at 2203 Airport Way South. The evening event will commence at 1745 hours with a dinner provided by the Seattle Police Officers Guild. Following dinner, Dr. Dan Clark and a speaker to be determined will present a talk focused on **"The Courage to Make Life Changing Decisions and Explore Ways to Sustain Your Family Strength"**, which will conclude at 2100 hours. Please join us for a night of information that will provide knowledge and insight to help keep you, your family, and your relationships healthy.

Pre registration is required due to limited seating, with a registration deadline of March 7th. Please email familiesinpolicing@yahoo.com to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Fly Fishing Anyone?

By Officer Lonnie Gillette, West Precinct

Anyone out there in the world of SPD interested in fly-fishing? The old SPD Fly Fishing Club has faded away and I'm wondering if there is any interest in resurrecting it in some form. Nothing fancy, just informal gatherings to unite folks in the sport or get first-timers going. Hey, it beats golf any day (right A!)?! If you have any interest at all, drop me an email. We'll see what happens.

Want MORE from your business?

Dynamic Marketing, Writing & Promotions
Affordable Small Business Solutions
Creative, Innovative Concepts

Peggy Dolane Marketing
dolane@aol.com • 206/854-8619
1st hour of consultation FREE for Guild members.

Horse Property For Sale

Charming 2 bedroom rambler on 5 beautiful acres near Duvall. Detached garage and small barn. Half trees, half pasture. Private road and well. **\$425,000**

Contact Officer Kent Carpenter, Harbor Unit
206-684-4071

The Seattle Police Motorcycle Drill Team presents:

2008 Talent Show

Friday, March 21, 5 pm

Seattle Police Range Pavilion

Still!
\$25 per
person

Call
Mike Henry
206 799-1175
To
Perform

Call
now for tickets:
Sgt. Brian Johnson
206-733-9189
Or any
Drill Team member

Headline Entertainment
Dinner and Beverages
New Raffle Format and Prizes
Dancing among the stars
Music by "Kevin O'Neill"

Retired News

By Mike Germann

New Retirements

There’s one new LEOFF I service retirement to publish this month:

Felton J. Miles III, #5110, Seattle Police Patrol Officer, retired for service from the Seattle Police Department on January 25, 2008. Felton had about 32 years of combined LEOFF I service, first with the Bellevue Fire Department and secondly with the Seattle Police Department. While a Seattle Police Officer, he served in the East Precinct.

Sullivan’s Down the Road

Excuse Mike Germann while he blinks back a tear in his eyes, but this is hard to say. John Patrick Sullivan, #2184, a legend in his own time, has officially retired from the Seattle Police Pension Office as of February 6, 2008. John has 17.5 years of loyal, dedicated and uninterrupted service with the Seattle Police Pension Office and the retired and active sworn members we serve and over 46 years of service with the City of Seattle overall:

- o October 1961 – Police Cadet
- o March 1965 – Police Patrolman
- o July 1990 – Police Pension Office

Incredibly, he served three terms of office as President of the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild while with S.P.D., an unheard of feat. Known and admired by all, John is just an incredible guy. His wife, Marty, five children and nine grandchildren are more than ready for his final retirement. Mike Germann says he will miss John more than anybody will ever know. He’s been more than a friend and co-worker. John’s the brother I never had.

JOHN PATRICK SULLIVAN, MAY YOU LIVE LONG AND PROSPER. WE’LL ALL MISS YOU.

Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association News

**RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
January 9, 2008**

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM in the dining room of the Four Seas Restaurant at 8th S. and King Street, January 9th 2008.

Mike Slessman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Taylor noted there were no last ring announcements to be made. The roll call of officers had Taylor, Dick Rovig, Nick Bulpin, Mike Slessman, John Sullivan and John Nordlund present with Paul Peterson and Pat Munter excused.

President Taylor directed everyone’s attention to the minutes of the December meeting that had been distributed. Ed Turner moved the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by John Guich and passed.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and Ed Turner made a motion to file the report for audit, seconded by John Larson and passed.

President Taylor introduced Sue Foy and Congressman Dave Reichert as guests. Sue is Reichert’s aide and also the daughter of Mike Slessman. Taylor then turned the meeting over to Congressman Reichert. He gave a brief summation of his background of 32 years with the King County Sheriffs, starting in 1972 where he

worked patrol for 5 ½ years then the jail and then the detectives eventually ending up in homicide. Reichert was assigned to investigate the Green River homicides for several years that culminated with the arrest of Gary Ridgeway. Reichert was elected King County Sheriff. Four years ago he was elected to the House of Representative from the 8th Congressional district. He serves with 435 members of the house and recently was appointed to the appropriations committee. He also serves on the Homeland Security sub-committee. Because of his law-enforcement background he investigates home grown radicalism and terrorism that is occurring in our prisons as well as the filtering of radicalism over into our colleges and universities. He stated he has voted along with democrats and republicans on issues concerning the war in Iraq, however he never voted against any bill that would negatively impact our Armed Services. He had the opportunity to visit Iraq and saw first hand, our men and women at work and was deeply impressed. Reichert then fielded questions from the audience that ranged from pension surplus, the war in Iraq, and several questions regarding the fate of Gary Ridgeway. He was warmly applauded and due to a prior engagement was unable to stay for lunch.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm and the 35 people in attendance again enjoyed an excellent lunch.

Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer

R.S.P.O.A. Dues

During February 2008, those retirees receiving a City (Police Pension) check may notice a small deduction for annual dues for the Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association in the amount of \$12.00. If you’re not a paid up lifetime member and/or you don’t receive a “city check,” it will be appreciated if you mail a check for your annual dues to:

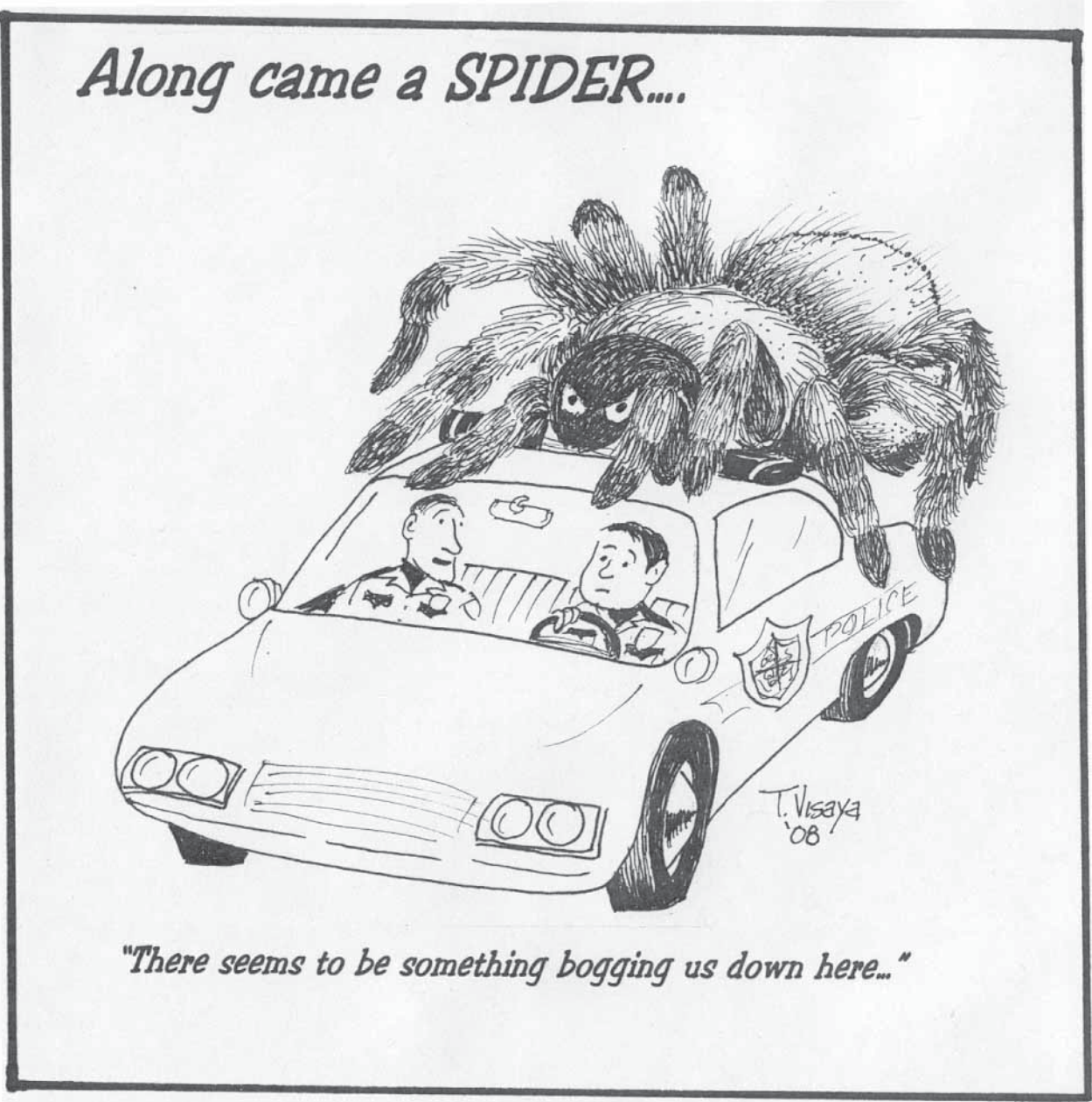
Nick Bulpin
5020 Brighton Place
Mukilteo, Washington 98275

Amount: \$12.00 payable to
R.S.P.O.A.

Nick and the Retired Officers’ Association will appreciate your annual dues payment.

Medicare Premium Reimbursements Paid

For those who filed early, reimbursement checks were sent mid January. If you filed your claim before January, you should have received your reimbursement check by now. Those with questions, call your Pension Office at (206) 386-1287 – Tom’s phone.



Your Ad Belongs Here!

Call Elizabeth at
(206) 767-1150

February 2008 Retirees’ Birthdays

Ed. Note: The numbers in parenthesis indicate the retiree’s February birth date

Karl **Ahl** (3), Robert D. **Armstrong** (23), Judith E. **Auve** (1), D. Michael **Ballard** (22), William H. **Berg** (21), Gene A. **Birkeland** (22), Arnold P. **Bugni** (12), Julien G. **Burchfield** (15), Maurice W. **Carlson** (16), Alfred F. **Carmony** (5), Phyllis **Christofferson** (1), Duane **Clark** (8), Harry W. B. **Cole** (6), Donald L. **Compton** (21), Robert B. **Condit** (10), Arthur W. **Conley** (6), Bill H. **Danbom** (26), Patrick O. **Dempsey** (4), Timothy C. **Dillon** (18), Barbara Jean **Dunbar** (14), Margaret M. **Ebbeson** (4), Raymond E. **Eilers** (3), Benjamin L. **Elliott** (28), Danny G. **Engle** (8), Maurice A. **Erickson** (1), Veretta A. **Farrell** (20), Edward J. **Fjerstad** (22), Barry A. **Fletcher** (2), Elsie M. **Freeland** (7), James R. **Gillespie** (25), Addi **Grimsrud** (28), Anton C. **Gustin** (4), Polly D. **Haley** (13), William G. **Hallowell** (5), Philip L. **Hannum** (20), Joel M. **Hayes** (15), Victor O. **Heins** (24), Neil L. **Hinton** (19), John N. **Huff** (19), Lawrence R. **Inman** (6), Terry P. **Jackson** (5), Margaret **Johanson** (5), Judith K. **Kelley** (18), Hugh C. **Kelly** (15), William D. **Kroon** (13), Raymond A. **Lambe** (12), Madge B. **Lawson** (17), Ethel Inez **Lui** (22), Roger E. **Lutz** (25), George E. **Marberg** (25), John L. **Mason** (3), Ronald L. **Massie** (20), Lillian Joyce **McCoy** (28), Betty L. **McFarlane** (24), Donna J. **McGlothin** (19), Donna L **McGuire** (28), Glenn E. **Miller** (2), Lawrence D. **Miller** (21), Charles E. **Mittman** (11), Joseph P. **Moore** (16), Cory J. **Ness** (7), Kenneth L. **Nicholas** (28), Gerald D. **Nikolaisen** (7), Jack H. **Olsen** (9), Harold Dean **Olson** (21), David T. **Orange** (20), Edward C. **Parker** (22), James R. **Parker** (21), Frank A. **Roys** (12), Raymond F. **Schork** (23), Ronald M. **Shelman** (3), Elizabeth J. **Skaret** (16), Ronald C. **Sprinkle** (16), Lynn F. **Stark** (25), Elsie S. **Stevenson** (15), Scott N. **Sundberg** (21), Steven R. **Sundstrom** (2), Neil D. **Swenson** (20), Henry **Vanderlaan** (13), Gordon L. **Vanrooy** (4), Hugh P. **Wallace, Jr** (2), James R. **Williams** (7), Norma B. **Wilson** (5), Gary S. **Wilson** (18), Luriene J. **Winney** (7), Gerald D. **Yates** (20), Richard S. **Zuray** (27)

The Ol’ Blue Clan Reunion

The 2008 Ol’ Blue Clan Reunion will be held on Saturday, March 15th at Turf Paradise Horse Track in Phoenix, AZ. Doors open at noon. The cost is \$40.00 per person. Please include the names of ALL persons in your party with your payment.

The Ol’ Blue Clan Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 16th. The cost for golf, prizes and refreshments is \$60.00. Please include your most recent golf handicap or, if you don’t have an official handicap, submit your approximate 18-hole average golf score. Direct golf questions to Pat Munter at 206-367-7709.

To reserve your spot for the reunion and/or golf tournament (can be on one check), send your check made out to:

Jim Johnson
8265 E. Southern Ave. #303
Mesa, AZ 85209

If you have any questions, call Jim Johnson at 480-373-7303 or 360-701-6371

HAWAII FABULOUS VACATION RENTAL

This luxury villa is nestled in the oasis of Mauna Lani Beach Resort. 3br/3 bath + loft, highly appointed furnishings, spectacular golf, access to white sand beach/club house, close to “The Shops”, Mauna Lani Bay and Fairmont Orchids Resorts for fantastic dining. Hurry! Book now and experience a vacation in paradise. *Sleeps 6* at \$250.00/night (+ cleaning and 11.42% Hawaii tax).

For more info contact Odette & Michael Gregg at
(808) 896-6704

Last Ring



Frank W. Jones, #798, retired Seattle Police Motorcycle Officer and Detective, passed away on January 12, 2008. He was 84 years of age upon his death. Frank Jones was born on June 22, 1923. He was appointed a Seattle Police Officer on February 16, 1947. Frank was assigned to motorcycles for his first eleven years of service with S.P.D., then uniformed patrol and finally detectives. Frank Jones retired on February 16, 1972 with 25 years of police service. No funeral services are planned, at this time. There will be a remembrance held on March 13th at the Lake City Elks (145 and Lake City Way) starting at 11:30. Frank Jones is survived by his wife Geri (a 26 year Seattle employee) and two sons, David and Richard (Dick) and a sister. Those wishing to make a contribution can do so to the Seattle Police Officer Guild “Help the Officer Fund” (checks sent to 2949 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134) or the Childrens Hospital Fauntleroy Guild (call 206-987-2153 for more information on donating) Just a note to Geri: you are a saint for nursing Frank during his years of failing health.



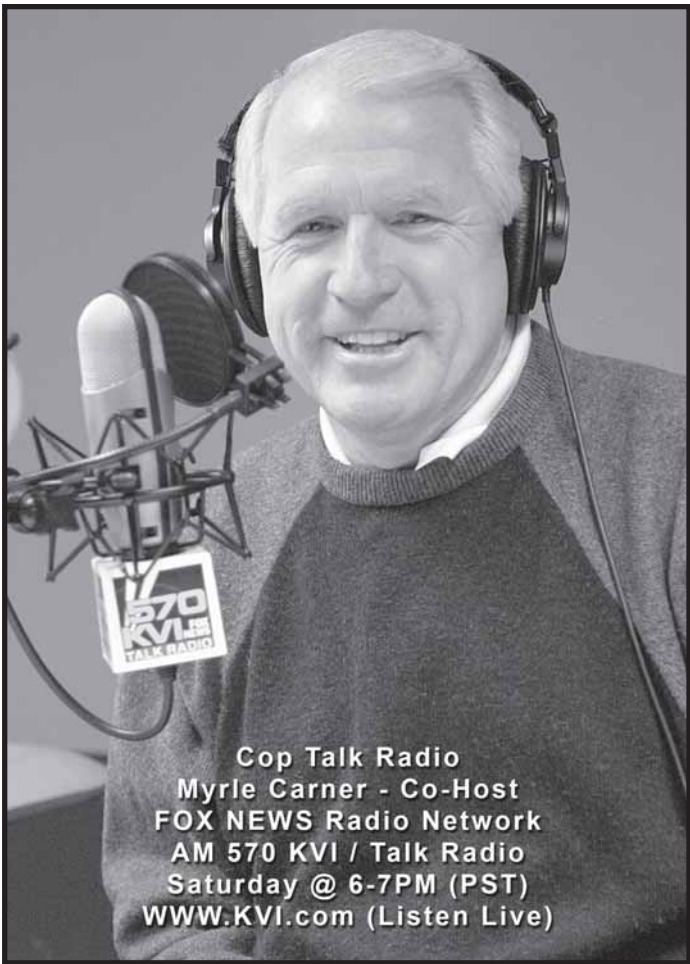
Two widows have passed on:

- o **Elizabeth A. “Betty” Taylor**, passed away on November 24, 2007, at 80 years of age. She was the surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Lieutenant Don Taylor;
- o **Ellen D. Nelson**, passed away on January 7, 2008 at 75 years of age. She was the surviving spouse of deceased retired Seattle Police Patrolman Bernard E. “Benny” Nelson;



Lastly, the wife of an old friend:

- o **Audrey L. Nakanishi** passed away December 20, 2007 at 63 years of age. She was married to retired Seattle Police Department Fiscal Director Ray Nakanishi. Audrey was a long-time (22 years) employee of the Seattle Municipal Court and all who knew her thought very highly of her.



Have You Considered Becoming a Mason? A Shriner?

Join two of the world’s most friendly, patriotic and charitable organizations in the world. Law enforcement officer special. One day classes to become a Master Mason now forming. March 1, Tacoma. March 15, Wenatchee. March 22, Spokane. Detective Don Cameron Shine Ceremonial July 12, 2008.

Contact Jerry Smith 206-876-1701 for more information.

Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, Editor



There is some good news coming out of the 2008 Legislative session in Olympia for law enforcement. State Representative Bill Hinkle (R-Yakima) introduced House Bill 2490, which if passed into law the release of the full, legal names (first, middle, last) and photographs of police officers would be exempt from public disclosure when the request is for a roster of all, most, or a significant number of commissioned officers. In addition, the dates of birth of police officers would be exempted from public disclosure. The bill was co-sponsored by Representatives Jay Ronde (R-North Bend) and Al O'Brien (D-Mountlake Terrace), a retired SPD Sergeant. Undoubtedly there are people who will try to keep this bill from getting a hearing, so be vigilant and contact your legislator and tell them to support this bill. You can get a telephone number for your legislator at <http://www.leg.wa.gov>. Akin to some provisions of the Geneva Convention, all the public needs is a name (first initial and last name), rank and serial number.

I want to thank the membership, as well as our retired friends for the influx of articles, letters and cartoons over the past several months. We have even seen an increase in folks who want to advertise in *The Guardian*. I have made some tough decisions about what content to include each month, and have held over some of your submissions longer than I would have liked. As you know there have been numerous important and timely issues that have been addressed in recent issues of *The Guardian*, and I expect this trend to continue. I will be sitting down with Rich and *The Guardian* committee to discuss expanding the paper from its regular 12-page edition to 16-pages on a regular basis. Look for that change in the future. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at spogguardian@yahoo.com.

SPOG Employee Theft Update

SPOG is in the final stages of wrapping up its' case against former employee, Tara Mullins. Mullins pleaded guilty in federal court to embezzlement charges on Tuesday, January 15th. Mullins admitted she embezzled \$41,733 from the Guild. She provided \$77,492 in restitution to the Guild at the hearing, covering expenses related to her negligence and criminal activities. She worked for SPOG from February 2003 until November 2005, when she was fired. Mullins will be sentenced in federal court in April, where she faces up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. To prevent a conflict of interest, the case was investigated by the King County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Secret Service. We appreciate the patience of our membership during this two-year ordeal. We were not allowed to discuss the case while the investigation was ongoing, but if anyone now has any questions feel free to call the Guild office.

Calendar of Events

- Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office
Wednesday, February 13th at 1300 hours
- Presidents Day (SPOG Office Closed)
Monday, February 18th
- Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office
Wednesday, February 27th at 2000 hours
- SPD Family Support Group Meeting at Southwest Precinct
Thursday, March 6th at 1800 hours

A BETTER
ROOFING
COMPANY

Owned & Operated
by Kurt & Scott MacMillan
(Sons of SPD Don & Terri MacMillan)

COMPOSITION SPECIALISTS
Plenty of local and Seattle Police Officer
References

Roofing the
King, Pierce &
Snohomish
County areas
since 1991

FREE ESTIMATES
(206) 935-1575

www.ABetterRoofing.com

Licensed • Bonded
Insured
St. Ctr. Lic. No. BETTERC052DT
MASTERCARD/VISA

Your Feet Will
Feel Better

Reduce shock, impact, blisters and odor. All with a pair of silver-fiber knitted Thorlos socks from Blumenthal Uniforms. Specially made for law enforcement. 30-Day No-Risk Trial. See store for details.

Now On Sale!
Model #TBX-404
Special Price \$14.99
Offer expires 2/29/08



Seattle
8610 Aurora Ave N
800-537-5277
M-F 9:00am - 5:30pm
Sa 9:00am - 1:00pm

Des Moines
21621 Pacific Hwy S
800-495-6265
M-Th 10:00am - 6:00pm
Fr 10:00am - 5:30pm



www.blumenthaluniforms.com

"Trusted leader in hearing health care"
The Hearing & Balance Lab, P.C.,



- 13 years of service to patients throughout the region
- Complete diagnostic evaluations serving newborns to adults
- State of the art technology
- Diagnostic balance assessments

Call to schedule your confidential
hearing screening Today!

425-316-5102

The
HEARING &
BALANCE
Lab, PC

12800 Bothell-Everett Highway
Suite 270
Everett, WA 98208
425-316-5102

Located 1 mile east of I-5 in North Mill Creek



Experience Matters

Experts in Repair, Maintenance and
Preservation of Low Slope Roofing Needs

The Board of Directors of the Seattle Police Athletic Association endorses BRD Roofing and offer our thanks for their commitment and generosity

Commercial & Industrial
Roofing Services
Serving the Entire Puget Sound Area

Call today for a
FREE
ROOF EXAMINATION
206-767-2995

With over 95 combined years in the commercial roofing industry, BRD Roofing has the knowledge and experience to provide you with cost-effective solutions to all your roofing needs.

BRD Roofing
309 S Cloverdale St. Suite C-40 Seattle, WA 98108
Contractors License #- BRDROR1954BQ